

**Abstract**

A controlled-release drug delivery system advantageously includes an open-ended, inflexible sleeve, at least two controlled-release layers and two open-center caps. Each controlled-release layer abuts a sealing surface that is located within and near each end of the sleeve. The caps seal each controlled-release layer against the abutting sealing surface. One or more dose units of drug are disposed in a region that is formed between the controlled-release layers. The controlled-release layers dissolve, at a predetermined rate, by the action of body fluids that are in contact with those layers through the center of the caps. Release of drug is delayed at least until the controlled-release layers dissolve. The dose unit itself, which is advantageously a core, can be tailored to provide an extended period of drug release. One or more dose units that provide an immediate release component can also be disposed near each end of the sleeve.